

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An absorbent structure for absorbent articles, the absorbent structure comprising:

a wetting region comprising partially neutralized superabsorbent material, the partially neutralized superabsorbent material having a degree of neutralization between 25 and 35%;

and a region outside of the wetting region including a superabsorbent material having a degree of neutralization greater than the neutralization of the partially neutralized superabsorbent material,

wherein the absorbent structure has a thickness of 1 mm to 8 mm when dry,

wherein the wetting region ~~comprising~~ comprises at least 40% by weight of the partially neutralized superabsorbent material,

wherein the partially neutralized superabsorbent material is localized in the crotch area of the article, and

wherein the superabsorbent material having a degree of neutralization greater than the neutralization of the partially neutralized superabsorbent material is located in the ends of the article.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) An absorbent structure according to Claim 1, wherein the absorbent structure includes dry-formed, compressed chemithermomechanical pulp or chemical pulp.

4. (previously presented) An absorbent structure according to Claim 1, wherein said structure has a thickness of 1 mm to 3mm when dry.

5. (previously presented) An absorbent structure according to Claim 1, wherein said absorbent structure is intended for incontinence protectors or feminine products.

6. (previously presented) An absorbent structure according to Claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent material having a degree of neutralization greater than the neutralization of the partially neutralized superabsorbent material has a degree of neutralization of about 70%.

7. (previously presented) An absorbent structure according to Claim 1, wherein the structure comprises a first zone closer to the wearer including the partially neutralized superabsorbent material and a second zone located beneath the first zone in a direction from the wearer of the absorbent article, wherein the second zone comprises superabsorbent material having a degree of neutralization of about 70%.

8. (previously presented) An absorbent structure according to Claim 1, wherein the partially superabsorbent is placed in a layer or sheet in a bottom or lower part of the structure.

9. (previously presented) An absorbent article comprising:
an upper liquid-permeable sheet,
a bottom liquid-impermeable barrier sheet, and
an absorbent structure according to Claim 1 enclosed therebetween.

10. (previously presented) An absorbent structure according to Claim 1, wherein
the absorbent article is a diaper, pants diaper, incontinence protector, sanitary napkin, or
panty liner.

11. (previously presented) An absorbent structure according to Claim 9, wherein
the absorbent article is a diaper, pants diaper, incontinence protector, sanitary napkin, or
panty liner.

12. (currently amended) An absorbent structure for absorbent articles, the
absorbent structure comprising:

a first zone arranged closer to a wearer including partially neutralized superabsorbent
material, the partially neutralized superabsorbent material having a degree of neutralization
between 20% and 50%;

and a second zone located beneath the first zone in a direction away from the wearer,
the second zone including superabsorbent material having a degree of neutralization greater
than the degree of neutralization of the partially neutralized superabsorbent material,

wherein the absorbent structure ~~having~~ has a thickness of 1 mm to 8 mm when dry,

wherein the first zone comprising comprises at least 40% by weight of the partially neutralized superabsorbent material,

wherein the partially neutralized superabsorbent material is localized in the crotch area of the article, and

wherein the superabsorbent material having a degree of neutralization greater than the neutralization of the partially neutralized superabsorbent material is located in the ends of the article.

13. (previously presented) The absorbent structure according to Claim 12, wherein the superabsorbent material having a degree of neutralization greater than the degree of neutralization of the partially neutralized superabsorbent material has a degree of neutralization of about 70%.

14. (currently amended) An absorbent structure for absorbent articles, the absorbent structure comprising:

a first zone arranged closer to a wearer including partially neutralized superabsorbent material, the partially neutralized superabsorbent material having a degree of neutralization between 25% and 35%;

and a second zone located beneath the first zone in a direction away from the wearer, the second zone including superabsorbent material having a degree of neutralization greater than the degree of neutralization of the partially neutralized superabsorbent material,

wherein the absorbent structure having has a thickness of 1 mm to 8 mm when dry,

wherein the first zone comprising comprises at least 40% by weight of the partially neutralized superabsorbent material,

wherein the partially neutralized superabsorbent material is localized in the crotch area of the article, and

wherein the superabsorbent material having a degree of neutralization greater than the neutralization of the partially neutralized superabsorbent material is located in the ends of the article.